

Patent Claims:

1. Spray or hatch cover for boats, e.g., kayaks, having a pull element that is a circumferential elastic band provided at the edge of the cover for simple release of the cover at the collar (coaming) projecting above the boat body and surrounding the aperture to be covered,

characterized in that

the pull element is a tightening strap that cannot be expanded (or only with great difficulty) by hand, into which at least a manually-operable tightening device has been inserted.

2. Spray or hatch cover as in Claim 1, characterized in that two tightening devices are inserted into the tightening strap.

3. Spray or hatch cover as in Claim 2, characterized in that a first tightening device is located at the bow end of the spray cover in its attached position, and a second tightening device is located at the stern end of the spray cover.

4. Spray or hatch cover as in Claim 1, 2, or 3, characterized in that each tightening device is a tensioner.

5. Spray or hatch cover as in Claim 4, characterized in that at least one adjusting device is inserted into the tightening strap to adjust the length of the tightening strap.

6. Spray or hatch cover as in Claim 5, characterized in that each adjusting device includes a manually operable release mechanism for spontaneous extension or separation of the tightening strap.
7. Spray or hatch cover as in Claim 6, characterized in that a first adjusting device is located at the bow end of the spray cover in its attached position, and a second adjusting device is located at the stern end of the spray cover.
8. Spray or hatch cover as in Claim 1, 2, or 3, characterized in that each tightening device is a pump clasp with a ratcheting strap working with it.
9. Spray cover as in one of Claims 1 through 8, characterized in that a release mechanism is provided on the upper side of the spray cover that is located in use position above the legs of the person sitting under the spray cover, and is actuated by raising the legs, and that provides an opening mechanism to at least one of the tightening and/or adjusting devices provided.
10. Spray cover as in Claim 9, characterized in that the release mechanism includes a release band connected at both ends to the spray cover, which in use position of the spray cover lies somewhat oblique to the legs of the person seated under the spray cover and has practically no slack, whereby the spray

cover may be stretched out oblique to its plane because of the elasticity of the material and/or its dimensions that are greater than those of the aperture of the boat.

11. Spray cover as in Claim 10, characterized in that a pull strap extends to the tightening device or adjusting device assigned to the opening mechanism and located at the stern end of the spray cover.

12. Spray or hatch cover as in one of Claims 1 through 11, characterized in that an additional rubber cord that is stretchable by hand is provided for prior positioning of the cover on the coaming.

13. Spray or hatch cover as in Claim 12, characterized in that the rubber cord is stitched to the edge of the cover.

14. Spray or hatch cover as in one of Claims 1 through 13, characterized in that the tightening strap is held within a hollow cavity at the edge of the cover.

15. Spray or hatch cover as in Claims 13 and 14, characterized in that the rubber cord is held by the seam that forms the hollow cavity.

16. Spray or hatch cover as in Claim 12, characterized in that the rubber cord or tightening strap is shaped as a tube in whose interior the tightening strap or the rubber cord extends.

17. Spray or hatch cover as in one of Claims 1 through 13, characterized in that the rubber cord is held within a series of loops or rings at the edge of the cover.

18. Spray or hatch cover as in one of Claims 1 through 17, characterized in that a shaped piece is inserted into the spray cover in use position between the tightening device and the coaming, and whose shape is matched on the one side to the contour of the coaming, and on the other side to the shape of the tightening device.

19. Spray or hatch cover as in one of Claims 1 through 17, characterized in that the shape of the rear side of the tightening device matches the shape of the coaming.